

DELIVERING ON A PROMISE OF WATER

Lake Roosevelt Storage Releases

Fulfilling its obligation to aggressively pursue new water supplies for Eastern Washington, the Washington State Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River (OCR) is tackling the top priorities of 2006 Columbia River Water Management legislation: to provide replacement water to farmers in the Odessa Subarea where aquifers are declining by as much as 10 feet a year, to develop water for new municipal, domestic and industrial needs, to support streamflows for fish, and prevent the interruption of water delivery to irrigators during drought.

In partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, the state's Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release Project delivers on these promises by making up to 132,500 acre-feet of water available to meet the current and growing needs of the Columbia River Basin.

Annually, a total of 82,500 acre-feet will be released from Lake Roosevelt behind Grand Coulee Dam:

- 27,500 acre-feet for stream benefits
- 30,000 acre-feet for Odessa area farmers (Replacing groundwater with surface water on 10,000 acres of land)
- 25,000 acre-feet to be made available as water rights to municipalities and industries.

Additionally, 50,000 acre-feet could be released during drought years to provide needed streamflow support for fish and coverage for some 360 irrigation water rights up and down the Columbia River that would be otherwise interrupted during low flow years.

All told, the new water supplies are projected to support 35,000 new jobs and add \$3 billion to the economy as water is allocated. And water to the Odessa protects 784 current jobs and \$53 million in yearly farm income.*

The Weber Siphon Project

As part of the Lake Roosevelt Project, Ecology and Reclamation will deliver a portion of the Odessa Subarea's water replacement needs. The agencies are seeking additional water sources to provide more replacement water in the future.

Odessa farmers face growing water quality and availability issues associated with pumping from a depleting aquifer. The Basin irrigators are within Columbia Basin Project boundaries where surface water deliveries were historically promised.

Construction of the Weber Siphon will allow the state to bring 21,000 acre-feet of Lake Roosevelt Project water to at least 7,000 acres of land now relying on unsustainable groundwater supplies for irrigation south of Interstate 90. The balance of the Lake Roosevelt Odessa Subarea water will be delivered to the remaining acres north of the freeway.

Current work is remedying a bottleneck where the East Low Canal crosses I-90 by way of the Weber Siphon Complex. By adding the second barrel of the siphon, the Complex's capacity is increased to accommodate this delivery of water.

The state provided \$800,000 to fund the design of the second siphon. Washington's congressional delegation and Reclamation secured \$36 million in stimulus funding to build it. Construction is scheduled to be completed in early 2012 and first water will pass through the siphon next spring in time for next year's growing season.



Economic Benefits*

- M&I Water
 - 35,000 jobs
 - \$3 Billion in added value to the economy
- Odessa Water
 - 784 jobs protected
 - \$53 million in annual income protected

*Economic benefits calculated using the Office of Financial Management's "2002 Washington Input/Output Model." For more information about the model, please see:
<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/economy/io/2002/>

On the Web

Lake Roosevelt Project

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_lkroos.html

Weber Siphon

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/weber.html>

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
 State of Washington

Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Permitting Process & Timeline

